



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA AGENCY OFFICIAL TO DONATE TWENTY VEHICLES TO HANCOCK, HARRISON AND JACKSON COUNTIES FOR HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

July 12, 2006, Jackson, Mississippi – On Friday, July 14, Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture Merlyn Carlson will visit Mississippi to present vehicles to city and county government entities in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties to be used in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

The City of Long Beach, Harrison County, Pass Christian Public Works Department, City of Biloxi, Hancock and Jackson County Boards of Supervisors, City of D'Iberville and others will be receiving the vehicles that were donated by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in West Virginia, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Arkansas.

The presentation will be made at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 12238 Ashley Drive, Hwy 49, Gulfport (phone 228-831-0881).

Mr. Carlson was appointed Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment in June 2005. He will be arriving in Mississippi on July 13 to also proclaim July as "Smart Irrigation Month" on behalf of USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns. This event will highlight irrigation equipment and conservation practices that landowners are using that make the most of our natural resources.

"We are honored to have Deputy Undersecretary Carlson visit our state to help raise awareness of our natural resources." said NRCS State Conservationist Homer L. Wilkes.

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